FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
ATLANTA	MEMPHIS	5/17/68	4/18/68-5/15/68

TITLE OF CASE

JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
IO #4182
WF #442-A
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-
VICTIM

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted]

TYPED BY: bjc

CHARACTER OF CASE

CR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY

REFERENCE: Atlanta report of SA [redacted] 4/18/68.

- P -

LEADS

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GA.

Will continue efforts to locate subject and report results thereof.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED None						ACQUITTALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
VIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:
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DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-38861-3627 EX 109

REC-7

15 MAY 20 1968

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	AAG CRD		
Request Recd.	AAG Gen		
Date fwd.	8-28-68		
How fwd.	Letter		
By			

9 JUN 17 1968

Notations

SEX
INV. SUP.
STAT. SECT.

Ico-Cpline, Em 2061

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Rerep sets forth check of various agencies previously conducted with negative results. Upon determination by Bureau on 4/19/68, that subject of this case is JAMES EARL RAY, these agencies were appropriately rechecked, that is, airlines, banks, birth, city and telephone directories, credit, arrest, car rentals, drivers license, dancing schools, hotels, INS, laundries, motels, public utilities, MVB, Selective Service, public transportation other than airlines, labor unions, and criminal and racial informants.

In addition, the authors of want ads appearing in the metropolitan Atlanta newspaper re used cars for sale during the period 3/24-4/5/68, were contacted, all look-alike complaints resolved through interview, appropriate agency checks and neighborhood investigation where warranted.

The foregoing efforts proved negative and results are not being set forth in this report. Results of each inquiry appear in Atlanta file in appropriate form.

Copies of this report for the United States Attorneys at Birmingham and Memphis are included with copies for those offices, but not marked as such. Dissemination to be held in abeyance pending Bureau instructions.

With reference to interviews of RAYMOND LOUIS CURTIS, this individual stated he would not testify to the information he furnished because he feared for his life. It is noted that CURTIS furnished the same information to the national news media.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 30, 1968

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER, 107 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his place of employment, [redacted], Atlanta, Georgia.

At the outset of the interview, GARNER acknowledged that he had been on a prolonged "drunk" since about Friday, April 19, 1968, and was at the time of the interview in the throes of a "terrific hangover." GARNER explained that [redacted] he has from time to time "gone on drinking sprees" for periods lasting several days in duration.

GARNER at this time acknowledged that he was previously on one of his "drunks" from a period beginning about March 22, 1968 through about March 30, 1968 which included the first week that the man known to him as ERIC S. GALT resided at the rooming house operated by GARNER at 113 - 14th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia.

GARNER said that despite his being in the throes of a "hangover" resulting from his most recent drinking binge, he now felt able to again recount his recollections of his contacts with "GALT". GARNER provided the following information:

GARNER began drinking in his room at 107 - 14th Street about Friday, March 22, 1968. On Sunday afternoon, before darkness (exact time unknown but possibly between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.) the man whom he later knew as ERIC S. GALT appeared at GARNER's door. GARNER said he now believes the door to his room was open, and that he (GARNER) was sitting in a chair in his room in a drunken condition. GARNER recalls that "GALT" inquired regarding obtaining a single room. At the time the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. had been closed for sometime possibly three or four weeks. This rooming house had been closed because it had become "infested with 'hippies'" and the

On 4/29/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 4/30/68

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only way he could get them to move from the rooming house was to close it up. When "GALT" asked for a single room, there was no single room available in the rooming house at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. so he decided to put "GALT" in the rooming house at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. Accordingly, "GALT" was the first roomer in this rooming house for several weeks.

GARNER now recalls that "GALT" produced a partly consumed quart or fifth size bottle of vodka. This bottle was square in shape but the brand name could not be recalled. He believes he may have had a drink with "GALT" in his (GARNER's) room at 107 - 14th Street, N.E. after which he accompanied "GALT" to the rooming house next door where he showed "GALT" room number 2. When "GALT" stated that the room was quite small, GARNER opened the door connecting with room number 4 which is utilized normally as a storage room and which has no windows. GARNER told "GALT" he could use the connecting room and at this time there was some mention made that "GALT" would put his television set on the desk in room number 4 as well as other articles belonging to "GALT". GARNER recalls that the connecting door is equipped with a hasp and padlock and that he (GARNER) upon unlocking and opening this door, replaced the padlock (unlocked) on the hasp. GARNER said he did not see the television or other items belonging to "GALT" at this time and has no clear recollection of ever seeing any of "GALT's" possession prior to "GALT's" departure from this address.

GARNER also recalls that "GALT" left the partly consumed bottle of vodka with GARNER and that after showing "GALT" to his room, GARNER returned to 107 - 14th Street, N.E. where he continued to drink.

He said the vodka bottle was undoubtedly thrown away in the trash.

GARNER states that he is unable to recall any of the conversations he may have had with "GALT." When specifically asked whether "GALT" had stated how he happened to pick this particular rooming house; where he had come from; whether he had made inquiries about places to eat, laundry and drycleaning facilities or service to his automobile, GARNER said he cannot recall any conversation concerning these or similar matters.

He reiterated that his contact with "GALT" on this occasion is very hazy because of his intoxicated condition.

At this point, GARNER stated that information previously provided to Agents concerning having obtained "GALT's" name at the time of initial contact was probably erroneous because he now recalls that he did not have "GALT" write his name at this time but that this was done a week later on March 31, 1968, when "GALT" paid GARNER for a second week's rent in advance.

GARNER said that he continued his drinking activities on through the week of March 24, 1968 and did not begin to sober up until the following weekend. He cannot clearly recall any of his actions during this week but has a hazy recollection of going to "GALT's" room at 113 - 14th Street, N.E. about Tuesday night and of again having some drinks with "GALT" in this room. He states that he cannot recall any of the conversations with "GALT" at this time and he does not recall observing any of the items that might have been in room number 2. He does not recall why he happened to go to the room but suspected that he may have been "checking the building" and just dropped in to visit with "GALT" when he discovered he was in the room. He believes this was Tuesday night, March 26, 1968, but is not sure of this.

GARNER also stated that sometime during the first week possibly on Wednesday, he recalls walking across the street from his residence to Postal Sub Station C for the purpose of buying some envelopes. He said that he was still in a drunken condition but hazily recalls encountering a young man approximately 20 years of age in front of the Post Office who addressed GARNER by name. This unknown individual asked GARNER a question to the effect "Who was the man I saw you with last night in the white Mustang?" GARNER said this suggested to him that he had possibly gone with "GALT" somewhere in "GALT's" automobile while he (GARNER) was dead drunk but although he has tried to recall such an incident, he cannot recall ever being in "GALT's" car. GARNER was specifically questioned at this point as to whether he has any friends or acquaintances residing in the vicinity of Highland View Street, Ponce de Leon Terrace and Barnett Street, N.E. GARNER said that he did not know anyone in that neighborhood and cannot recall having visited that neighborhood on any occasion in the recent past.